

Aerospace Funds Sought

From Staff Reports

WASHINGTON — The federal government would increase spending on aerospace research and development dramatically over the next five years under legislation to be proposed today by U.S. Rep. John B. Larson, D-1st District.

Larson, whose district is home to both United Technologies Corp. and its Pratt & Whitney division, said the United States has let research spending slide while European aerospace competitors have benefited from financial help from their governments.

"The engine war used to be between Pratt and GE," Larson said, referring to the longtime American rivals for jet engine contracts. "Now, really, it is between America and a unified Europe. We better wake up."

Larson has been gathering cosponsors for a measure he said grew out of a series of committee hearings.

The legislation calls for doubling funding on research and development through NASA to about \$1.15 billion in 2007.

It also would follow recommendations of a Federal Aviation Administration advisory panel and double funding to FAA research and engineering projects over five years to \$550 million in 2007.

Larson said government, industry and academia working together can help American companies come up with ways to make flight less noisy, reduce emissions and increase efficiency.

Trade groups such as the Aerospace Industries Association also have called for increases in government-supported research and development.

The federal Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry is expected to do the same in its final report to the president and Congress this fall.